

Celebrity pg 34

Williams did 'stupid, crazy' things



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Cops need public's help in solving Deerfoot gunplay

TIPS Police are asking for anyone who has information about a drive-by shooting in the city's southeast last Friday to come forward.

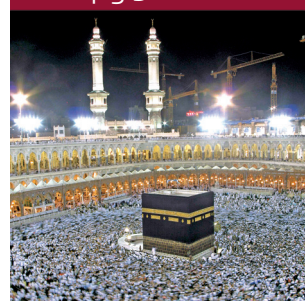
On Dec. 5 two men were travelling south on Deerfoot Trail along Bow Bottom Trail when they believed they were being followed by another car.

As the men drove into Douglasdale the other vehicle pulled up and fired several shots into the car, injuring the driver.

Police haven't determined a motive yet, but are asking for anyone with information to call 403-567-6800 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

METRO CALGARY

Food pg 30



Lamb at the table for Eid celebration

Shopping pgs 21-26



Have a green Christmas this year

Style pg 28

Glam up your New Year's Eve



Interim Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff speaks during a news conference in Ottawa yesterday. Canada's opposition Liberals named Ignatieff, a formidable campaigner they hope will reverse the once-mighty party's decline, as their new leader.

Ignatieff 'formidable'

New leader good for Liberals, but won't help win Alta: Prof

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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Expectations are high across the country — including here in Calgary — after the Liberal Party of Canada crowned their latest leader.

Even though new Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff might one day be elected prime minister, it doesn't necessarily mean he would win a seat in Calgary, according to a political expert.

Mount Royal College political science teacher Duane Bratt said Ignatieff will win voters over where

"He has much better communication skills and can speak French fluently. So, even without Calgary he could (be) prime minister. I think it's good news for Liberals."

Duane Bratt, Mount Royal College

Stéphane Dion just could not, but it doesn't mean Calgary voters will be swayed in mass numbers.

"I think he is a formidable candidate to go against Stephen Harper, but with that said if it were up solely up to Calgary he wouldn't win. But any Liberal in Calgary would have a hard time winning," Bratt said.

That doesn't mean he

won't do marginally better than his predecessor Dion though, Bratt added.

"He has much better communication skills and can speak French fluently. So, even without Calgary he could (be) prime minister. I think it's good news for Liberals, even though some might be upset at how he became leader."

Cara Lockhead, a 34-

year-old project manager from Calgary, is throwing her support behind the new leader.

"I think Dion was a joke and it seems like this guy is a lot more characteristic and seems to care more about getting the country in order instead of his own selfish agenda," she said. Lockhead's main concern with Ignatieff is if he were to continue a coalition, which she says "many people just don't want."

But Bratt absolutely believes the "coalition is dead" with Ignatieff only using it as a "tool."

MORE COVERAGE ON PG 8

No schools forces CBE student shuffle

NEIL MACKINNON
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EDUCATION A drastic gap in provincial funding has forced the Calgary Board of Education to play a "giant chess game" with students in the city's south end.

There are 35 communities in Calgary without schools and though the province

has committed to 16 new facilities over the last several years, CBE's Ted Flitton said some schools are currently overcrowded and others aren't full, forcing a shuffle of students, mainly in French immersion and traditional learning programs.

"We've been asking the province for years to provide a long-term, stable plan."

Ted Flitton said the province for years to provide a long term, stable plan to fund neighbourhood schools and so far nothing has really come through," said Flitton. "There's not enough schools where students are and as a result, we have had to develop an ongoing accommodation plan ourselves."

Not everyone is happy with the moves, Flitton acknowledged, but the Board has consulted with parents in affected areas and has tried to build voices from those consultations into the plans.

"We can't please everyone, but to be fair, we have also heard from parents that are happy with the moves," Flitton said.

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An advertisement for H&M featuring two models. The model on the left is wearing a grey cable-knit cardigan with a large yellow flower brooch and a black skirt with multiple layers of fringe. The model on the right is wearing a cream-colored cable-knit cardigan with a large dark red flower brooch and a cream-colored skirt with multiple layers of fringe. The background is a soft, out-of-focus pinkish-purple.

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MOST FASHIONABLE GIFTS

Suspect's trial for Greyhound beheading set for March 2

A man accused of beheading a passenger on a Greyhound bus from Edmonton to Winnipeg in the summer will stand trial on March 2 for the killing. Vince Li is charged with second degree murder in the gruesome slaying.

METRO CALGARY

Local

Missing woman

City cops are asking for assistance in locating a woman who was last seen in Winnipeg in July. Police believe 21-year-old Claudette Osborne, also known as "Penny," is in the Calgary area. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 403-266-1234.

METRO CALGARY



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10:30 Tonight



Citytv



U of C prof to look at wilderness law

PROJECT Canada's laws designed to protect the wilderness are going under the microscope.

University of Calgary law professor Shaun Fluker is beginning a project hoping to unearth possible reasons why laws designed to protect wild landscapes may fail.

"There is a general consensus that wilderness areas, and the species that rely on them, are in decline despite the proliferation of environmental legislation enacted over the past several decades," Fluker said.

METRO CALGARY



Read CBS chief challenges Jay Leno to a duel at



Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 6, 12, 18, 27, 42 & 43 Bonus 7
These results are not official.

City collars 100,000 canines

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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In a matter of a few clicks Ruby the Great Dane became a local celebrity.

The two-year-old dog's owner, Shannon Dunlop, didn't expect a phone call from the city for such a milestone — Ruby became the 100,000th licensed Calgary canine.

"I had no idea what we were in for," Dunlop said.

Animal and Bylaw Services celebrated yesterday by presenting Ruby and Dunlop with a large basket full of treats, toys and food — and a free 12-month licence.

Dunlop had adopted Ruby from the Humane Society in February and received a six-month licence and when she re-licensed her again found out she was the 100,000th.

"The Humane Society is so close to our hearts, they brought Ruby, my husband and I together. Ruby is the perfect dog; we fell in love with her at first sight, and she is just so gentle," Dunlop said.

The City of Calgary estimates they have 110,242



Animal and Bylaw Services director Bill Bruce gives Ruby, a two-year-old Great Dane, and her owner, Shannon Dunlop, an award for being the 100,000th dog registered in the city of Calgary.

Territory marked

- Calgary is the only city in Canada with 100,000 dogs licensed and also the city with the most compliance, according to bylaw director Bill Bruce.

dogs in the city and to have 100,000 licensed dogs in a municipality is a feat, says bylaw boss Bill Bruce.

"This is really about a

dog's ticket home. Most dogs are returned home within 24 hours and some even before they hit the shelters," Bruce said.

"A dog licence basically allows us to reunite a dog with their owner, and yes, dogs get loose for various reasons, so it's a good value for your money."

'West should act like a big player,' Manning says

SPEECH Albertans need to stop bemoaning their place at the parliamentary table and start throwing their weight around.

It may seem a strange assertion from the man who coined the phrase "the West wants in," but Reform party founder Preston Manning said the roots of full-fledged western alienation are gone as it has become possible to win a majority government without a serious amount of seats in Quebec and Ontario.



Preston Manning

"Stop talking about it," said Manning. "The West is a big player and the West should act like a big player."

Manning's comments came yesterday during a Calgary speech where he said parliamentary shenanigans in the middle of an economic crisis have damaged national unity and national and international confidence in the country.

NEIL MACKINNON/METRO CALGARY

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4 local

Business centre being developed
Calgary Economic Development is creating a Global Business Centre to increase international trade across southern Alberta. It will open in spring 2009. **METRO CALGARY**



Dirk Chisholm, 13, a Grade 8 student at Branton Junior High School, is selling holiday greeting cards with a Robert Bateman print for the Poppy Fund, hoping to raise money for the veterans.

Card sales for soldiers

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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An ambitious Calgary teenager selling greeting cards for charity is asking for the generosity of Calgarians this Christmas.

Dirk Chisholm, 13, started selling Robert Bateman greeting cards in support of the veteran's food bank three years ago but this year is worried they might not even break even.

"We got a bit of a late start and we don't think that many people know about the cards," Chisholm said.

The Grade 8 student got the idea to sell the cards in support of veteran's because he realized they might not "enjoy Kraft Dinner like teenagers do" and he wanted to help give them better quality food.

The cards are sold in packs of 10 for \$10 each through the city's legions,

which Chisholm credits with "saving the project." Last year former MP Art Hanger's office helped deliver the cards, but when Hanger retired there was no one left to help.

"I think veterans are a responsibility, not a charity, and the legion really saved the campaign when they stepped up to help," Chisholm added.

People interested in purchasing the cards for charity can contact any legion across the city.



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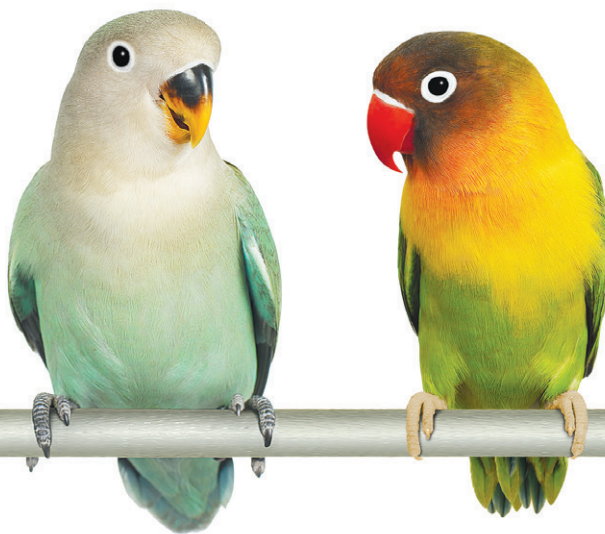
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Gifts available at Santa's Toy Shoppe starting Friday

Santa's Toy Shoppe at the Mustard Seed will be opening its doors this Friday at 10 a.m. The Toy Shoppe provides Christmas gifts to the less fortunate at no cost. **METRO CALGARY**

Kensington new crime spot: Expert

NEIL MACKINNON
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Liquor may no longer flow at the Cecil Hotel Tavern but the dope dealers and their clientele who frequented the joint will find new digs, likely in Kensington, according to one local crime expert.

The Cecil's criminal element may head underground for as long as two years, said Mount Royal

College's Roland LaHaye, but will re-emerge within close proximity to downtown, either along 9 Ave. near the zoo or Kensington-areas with less stigma and police heat.

"Calgary will always have a place like the Cecil Hotel," LaHaye said. "There will be another centralized, recognizable place like that, it's just a question of exactly where and how soon."

In some respects, the exodus to Kensington is al-

ready underway with panhandlers, crack dealers and junkies heading north after being busted downtown, said community liaison officer Const. Eric Levesque.

"We're definitely preparing to see more people now than we ever have," said Levesque, who foresees the implementation of a beat system in the near future to increase police visibility to deal with the influx. "We're definite-

ly going to have some challenges on our end."

Kensington, which prides itself on an urban chic image of trendy shops and pubs, may be moving away from its relative inner city oasis status but it's not going down without a fight, said Kensington Business Revitalization Zone manager Annie MacInnis.

"It's still a really nice neighbourhood and we're working hard to keep it that way," said MacInnis.



With a licence suspension at the Cecil and possible deal with the city leading to demolition, experts say crime will merely filter to areas surrounding downtown.

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Stelmach bound for Texas for oil talks with governor

Alberta's premier will be going to Texas next week to talk about the one thing both places have in common: Oil.

Premier Ed Stelmach will head up a delegation from Alberta to speak with Texas Governor Rick Perry about how the province and Texas can "play a critical role in providing clean, reliable and secure energy for the 21st century."

"Texas and Alberta are the pillars of North America's energy economy and it's critical for our jurisdictions to work together on energy development," said Stelmach in a statement.

"It is equally important

"Texas and Alberta are the pillars of North America's energy economy and it's critical for our jurisdictions to work together."

Premier Ed Stelmach

that our jurisdictions look for opportunities to collaborate and develop new technologies such as carbon capture and storage as we both transition to meet the demand for cleaner energy."

METRO CANADA

Grits to pick leader this weekend

POLITICS With about as much fanfare as a chorus of crickets, the race for the Alberta Liberal party leadership is heading down the backstretch.

The final votes will be cast tomorrow and a new

leader announced Saturday.

Calgary MLA's Dave Taylor and David Swann are both vying to replace Kevin Taft, as is former Edmonton MLA Mo Elsalhy.

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The Transportation Safety Board's final report into a 2007 hot-air balloon near Winnipeg urges new regulations for the commercial ballooning industry. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

TSB urges balloon regulations

Canada

Iggy takes the reins

The Hallmark moment in the Liberal caucus came when Michael Ignatieff and Bob Rae embraced.

It was a deliberate signal from the Toronto MPs that their political rivalry — alive and well just days ago — had been set aside as caucus crowned Ignatieff the interim, and almost certainly permanent, leader.

"It was really tough to keep a dry eye. It was a moment," said Liberal MP Martha Hall Findlay.

Rae and New Brunswick MP Dominic LeBlanc, a leadership contender

Dion's debt

- Party officials said it's likely there will be a movement to help former Liberal leader Stéphane Dion retire his outstanding debts.

who dropped out of the race Monday and threw his support to Ignatieff, made the formal recommendation in caucus to have him become the leader.

Liberal Party of Canada president Doug Ferguson said there was a sense of relief in the room as the

leadership race came to a quick and quiet end.

For Liberal MPs, settling the leadership question meant "unity (and) the ability to focus on the two things that are important right now — the economic crisis and a prime minister who has lost of the confidence of the House of Commons," Hall Findlay said.

That was the message from many MPs yesterday as they emerged from a morning caucus meeting with a new leader at the helm.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Debit donations



The Salvation Army, hoping to boost donations, is offering a modern alternative to stuffing crumpled bills in a kettle — donating on the street with one swipe of a debit or credit card. Two wireless debit machines are being rotated through downtown Toronto locations, as a test this year. The organization said if the test proves to be successful, the program will be expanded.

Tories launch swift attack on Ignatieff

POLITICS The Conservatives immediately set their sights on Michael Ignatieff, pegging him as an unelected leader with no mandate to head a coalition government.

Although Prime Minister Stephen Harper has stated he is "willing" to co-operate with the new Liberal leader, Conservatives emerging from yesterday's caucus meeting drove home the message that the selection of Ignatieff was undemocratic and said the Tories would not down their partisan tools while there is the threat of a coalition.

"The basic substance of the debate doesn't change," said Heritage Minister James Moore.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"The debate doesn't change."

Tory MP James Moore

News in brief

ONTARIO After years of horror stories concerning unregulated cosmetic-surgery clinics, new inspection powers will be given to the provincial medical watchdog and other regulated health colleges. Health Minister David Caplan proposed legislation yesterday empowering regulatory bodies to inspect clinics where high-risk procedures are performed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada last in child care: UNICEF

REPORT Canada ranks last in the first comparison of child-care services in 25 developed countries, according to the United Nations Children's Fund.

The report card, to be released today, shows Canada failed on nine of 10 measures aimed at ensuring kids get the best start in life, including providing subsidized child care for 25

per cent of kids under age three and spending one per cent of GDP on early childhood services.

Canada's poor showing represents a lost opportunity for economic growth at a time of economic uncertainty, suggests the report by UNICEF's Innocenti Research Centre in Florence, Italy.

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Driving high larger problem than driving drunk in B.C., survey finds

DUI B.C. drivers are more likely to be under the influence of drugs than of alcohol, a new survey suggested yesterday.

Preliminary findings from the 2008 British Columbia Roadside Survey found that 10.4 per cent of people driving at night showed evidence of drug use. By comparison, 8.1 per cent of drivers had consumed alcohol.

"We've spent the past 25 to 30 years dealing almost exclusively with alcohol and driving," said Doug Beirness, senior research and policy analyst at The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA).

Daily problem

- The survey found that while alcohol-impaired driving was stronger on weekend nights, drug use was constant throughout the week.

"We've had some pretty good success with that regard. We haven't solved the problem, but we made gains. Now we're finding that there is this other problem, lurking behind the alcohol problem that has to do with drug use. That's disturbing."

JEFF HODSON/METRO CANADA

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'She's not really my girlfriend'

Fem-bot sparks international fame, questions for Ontario man

A Brampton, Ont., man who found himself an instant Internet celebrity yesterday after his "robot girlfriend" was featured on websites of two British tabloids, is both happy and embarrassed by the attention.

"She's not really my girlfriend," said Trung Le at his parents home last night. "Aiko's a robot who can do a lot of things and hopefully more soon."

Stories in The Daily Mail and The Sun called Aiko, the five-foot tall robot with a hourglass figure, shiny hair, delicate Asian features and silicon breasts, Trung's girlfriend.

"I have friends — I don't need to create friends," said Trung sheepishly. The stories suggested he may have made Aiko because he was too busy to make friends or have a girlfriend.

Trung, 33, who made his first robot when he was eight, says Aiko is the result of years of planning, calculation and hard work.

Aiko, which means love child in Japanese, can speak



Trung Le, right, with his fem-bot named Aiko at his Brampton, Ont., home. Aiko is a voice-recognition robot with very little motion.

about 13,000 sentences in Japanese and English, do algebra, trigonometry and geometry, pick up and identify medicine and tell the weather. She can move her hands and nod her head.

Trung is now trying to get her to make tea/coffee and do simple household chores.

He started working on assembling her in August last year and she was ready two

months later. Well, almost. Her hair — real from Japan — came a bit later.

She cost him about \$25,000, leaving him penniless and forced to move back to his parents' home. Aiko, who spent her childhood as a head attached to a bag stuffed with circuitry, has been attacked, harassed and even assaulted, Trung said.

Trung has taken her out to a north Brampton park three times. "Most people have been very curious about her and want to know what all she can do," he said. Many women, he said, have been fascinated with her and have touched her breasts to get a feel of what silicon is like.

But one elderly woman yelled at her and threw rocks. She told Trung that he was "trying to be God and it wasn't right."

Trung is unfazed by the reaction. "If people think she's pre-programmed, I invite them to her next public appearance or even to my home to test her," he said. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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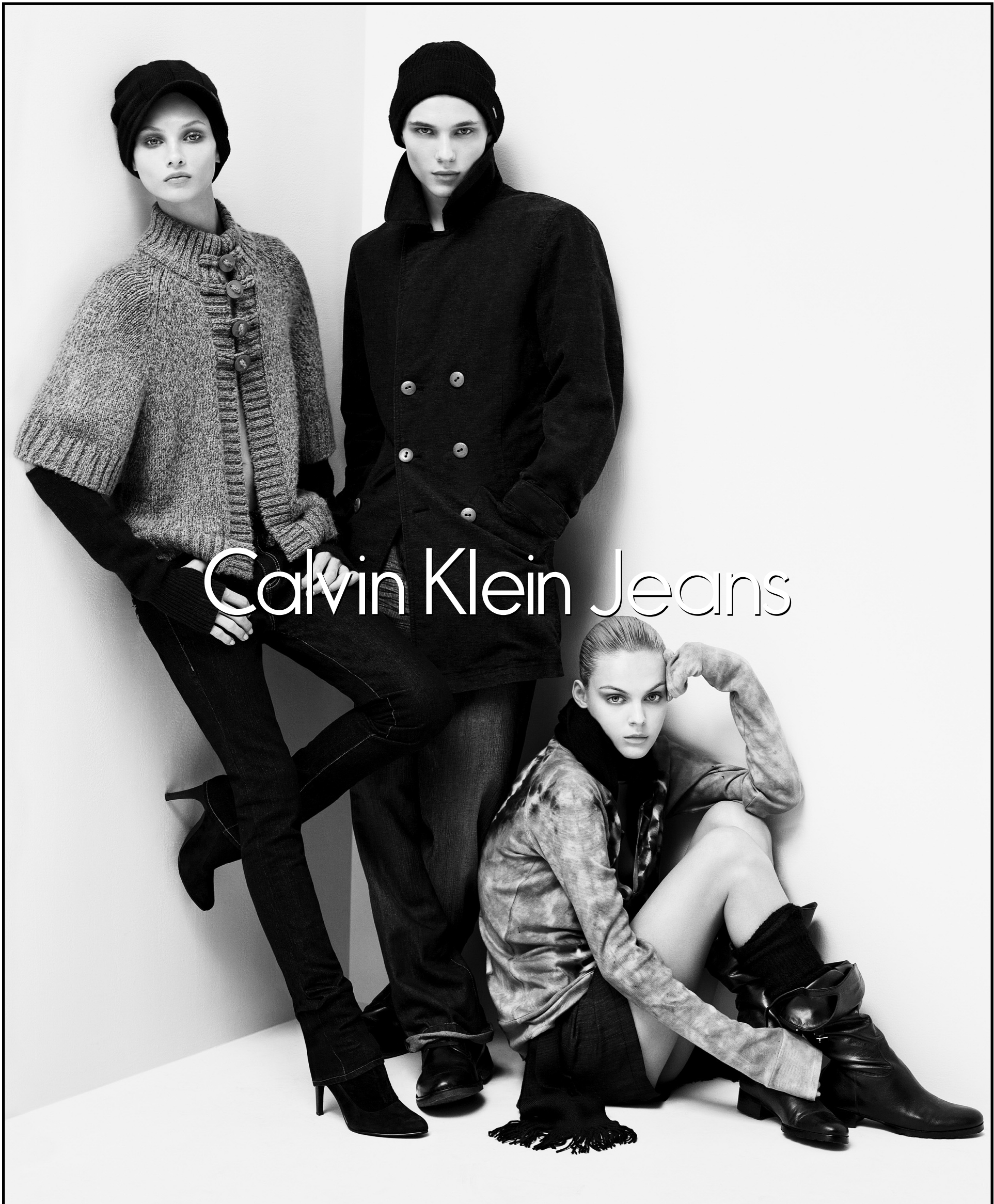
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Calvin Klein Jeans

Harper looking to fill Senate seats?

Stephen Harper plans to fill every empty Senate seat by the end of the year to kill any chance of an NDP-Liberal coalition government filling the vacancies next year, a source told Torstar News Service last night.

The Prime Minister plans a wave of appoint-

Prorogued the House

The move is sure to spark howls of protest from opposition parties arguing that Harper, who prorogued the House rather than be defeated by a united opposition, has no right to make such appointments during this time.

tives in the Liberal-dominated upper chamber, a government source said

last night.

"The government has the intention of naming senators by a government that is legitimately elected by the people," the official said, taking a swipe at the coalition that is threatening to topple the Conservatives.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Afghanistan deaths hit 100, recruitment reports increases

WAR Canada is at war. Our military, however, finds it far more difficult to recruit pharmacists than fighters.

The ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, in which the 100th Canadian soldier died Friday, has not hurt the forces' efforts to find recruits for front-line combat. In fact, it appears to have helped, as several recruitment offices across the country are about to set records for enrollment. But those same offices are reporting difficulty recruiting doctors and non-combat roles.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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BEAUTY
at the Bay

Doctors in St. Louis, Mo., said yesterday they have successfully transplanted a full ovary from a volunteer, allowing her infertile twin sister to give birth to a healthy baby girl on Nov. 11. It is the first time an entire ovary has been transplanted and resulted in a live birth, the researchers said. **REUTERS**

World



Sugar can be addictive

A study of rats offers scientific proof for what many dieters already know: Sugar can be addictive. Bingeing on sugar can act on the brain in ways very similar to drug abuse, a Princeton University researcher said yesterday. The binges produced behavioural and even neurochemical changes in rats that resembled the changes, such as withdrawal symptoms, produced when animals or people take substances of abuse. **REUTERS**

Obama urges Illinois governor to step down

U.S. president-elect Barack Obama called on Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich to resign yesterday after he was charged with trying to sell Obama's Senate seat and swap favours for money.

Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said Blagojevich needed to step down because "under the current circumstances it is difficult for the governor to effectively do his job and serve the people of Illi-

nois."

Moves boiled up within Illinois to strip Blagojevich of the power to make the appointment he allegedly tried to barter, either by driving him from office through legal means or letting voters fill the Senate seat with a special election.

Obama, who takes office Jan. 20, resigned from the Senate after winning the Nov. 4 presidential election.

Blagojevich showed no sign of stepping down after he was arrested at home before dawn Tuesday and then released on his own recognizance without having to post bail.

The governor and his chief of staff, John Harris, were charged in a federal complaint with conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and a second count of solicitation of bribery. **REUTERS**

U.S. House passes \$14 billion auto bailout

ECONOMY The U.S. House approved a bill yesterday to lend up to \$14 billion to the three struggling U.S. automakers, General Motors Corp, Ford Motor Co and Chrysler LLC.

Introduced by Democrats, the bill is nearly identical to one pending in the Senate, where Republican opposition was making its chances for passage look uncertain.

The bailout proposal would extend taxpayer-funded loans or lines of credit to the Detroit Three and create a federal post of "car czar" to oversee the industry. **REUTERS**

Prince Harry Trading for charity



Britain's Prince Harry closes a 250-million-euro deal with broker Amanda Hartnell at the offices of city traders ICAP in London yesterday. Prince Harry was attending the 16th Annual ICAP Charity Day, where all global revenues from ICAP trading are donated to 100 charities. **REUTERS**

Greece hit by more rioting, general strike

VIOLENCE Riot police clashed with demonstrators for a fifth day and a general strike paralyzed Greece yesterday, piling pressure on the beleaguered conservative government.

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis announced financial support for businesses damaged in the riots that have gripped more than 10 Greek cities after the weekend shooting of a teenage boy by police.

Meanwhile, foreign and domestic flights were grounded, banks and schools were shut, and hospitals ran on emergency services as hundreds of thousands of Greeks walked off the job in a 24-hour work stoppage. **REUTERS**

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Type-1 diabetes and celiac disease share genetic root

Type-1 diabetes and celiac disease, also known as gluten intolerance, share at least some genetic roots, researchers reported yesterday in the New England Journal of Medicine. The findings may lead to new treatments for such diseases. **REUTERS**

world **15**

U.S. nanotech plan lacking

The current U.S. plan for the emerging field of nanotechnology lacks vision, fails to assess risk and leaves the industry vulnerable to public mistrust, a report by the National Research Council found.

The report, released yesterday, found serious gaps in the government's current plan for determining if there are risks posed by nanomaterials. It called for an effective national plan for identifying and managing potential risks.

"The current plan ... does not present an overarching research strategy needed to gain public acceptance..."
David Eaton

"The current plan catalogues nano-risk research across several federal agencies, but it does not present an overarching research strategy needed to gain public acceptance and realize the promise of nanotechnology," committee chairman David Eaton, a public health expert at the University of Washington in Seattle, said in a statement.

Nanotechnology, the design and manipulation of materials thousands of times smaller than the width of a human hair, has been hailed as a way to

make strong, lightweight materials, better cosmetics and even tastier food. But scientists are only starting to look at the impact such tiny objects might have.

Some studies suggest that nano-sized objects may have different effects in the body than larger ones.

Currently, more than 600 products involving nanomaterials are already on the market. Most are health and beauty products, but many researchers are working on ways to use the materials for medical therapies, food additives and electronics.

In its report, the com-

mittee said the current U.S. strategy, developed by the National Nanotechnology Initiative, does not provide for adequate research to ensure the safety of workers, consumers and the environment from unexpected and possibly toxic properties of these materials.

REUTERS

Pakistan confirms arrest of Mumbai attack suspects

Pakistan confirmed yesterday the arrest of two men named by India as planners of the militant attack on Mumbai, but a senior Indian official described Pakistani actions as "eyewash."

Two operations commanders with the Lashkar-e-Taiba jihadi group, Zakiur-Rehman Lakhvi and

Zarrar Shah, were being held, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani told journalists in Multan city.

While other media have reported up to 40 people had been arrested, Pakistani intelligence officials told Reuters only around a dozen people have been detained.

REUTERS



Leaping reindeer



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UN fund asks rich nations for \$1 billion

FOREIGN AID Rich nations will be asked to contribute \$1 billion to a fund to help the poorest countries implement urgent projects to adapt to climate change, a top official said yesterday.

Boni Biagini, who runs the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) which was set up under UN auspices in 2001, said funds would be raised based on an evaluation of plans from 38 of the world's poorest countries.

"They are pretty satisfied about this amount. They say \$2 billion would be better, but let's start with \$1 billion at least and of course scale up," she told Reuters on the sidelines of UN climate change talks in Poznan, Poland.

So far, rich countries have pledged only \$172 million to the fund, with Germany, Denmark, Britain and the Netherlands contributing the most.

REUTERS

Free trade key: Rice

Western Hemisphere nations must renew commitments to free trade despite global financial turmoil, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said at a regional meeting yesterday.

Ministers from 12 countries that have negotiated trade pacts with Washington backed Rice and vowed in a joint statement to continue efforts to open markets.

"Free trade and open markets remain the surest path to growth, and it is the path that our region will follow to prosperity," Rice told the gathering in Panama City.

In a statement at the end of a half-day meeting, the ministers said that in light of the financial crisis, trade and investment liberalization was "essential" for economic growth.

They also called for a "prompt and ambitious conclusion" to 7-year-old efforts to get a global trade deal in the World Trade Organization's Doha round.

REUTERS

U.S. drafts text to pursue pirates

POLITICS The United States wants to get UN authority for countries pursuing pirates off the coast of Somalia to hunt them down on land, UN diplomats said yesterday. "There is complete council solidarity and consensus on the importance of dealing with the piracy problem and thwarting it, and dealing with it with every tool at our disposal," Alejandro Wolff, U.S. Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations, said.

REUTERS

News in brief

U.S. SPIES The United States routinely spies on Israel to try to gather information on its assumed atomic arsenal and secret government deliberations, a new official history of Israel's intelligence services says.

DARFUR President George W. Bush, voicing frustration at the international response to the crisis in Darfur, urged the UN yesterday to speed up its efforts and warned Sudan's president he would be held accountable.

REUTERS

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Comment

Patience Iggy's virtue

New Grit leader should pass on coalition and rebuild party

Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

Three years ago, Michael Ignatieff was a political neophyte. Amid much anticipation, he had returned home from Harvard after decades abroad as a journalist, author, professor and broadcaster. As expected, he ran for Parliament and won a seat.

When Paul Martin resigned, Ignatieff ran for the leadership. It was too early for someone who had barely unpacked his bags, and he surely knew it. His campaign foundered and failed.

But today, in one of those strange and wondrous reversals of fortune, Ignatieff finds himself leader of the Opposition. He could be

prime minister of Canada within two years, maybe tomorrow.

The man then and now are assuredly different. Ignatieff remains thoughtful, eloquent and telegenic, which helped make him an influential public intellectual in London and Boston.

Now, though, he has learned the bloodsport of politics, which is the critical difference. He has entered the arena. He has paid his dues. He is no longer a dilettante, an arriviste, a poseur.

Three years in politics isn't a lifetime of experience. But in the Age of the Amateur, it is certainly respectable, longer than

Pierre Trudeau or Brian Mulroney served before they became prime minister (though Trudeau had been justice minister).

What Ignatieff has now, which he didn't have then, is the credibility he earned in Parliament as deputy leader and party loyalist. Over the last three years, he learned to swallow his reservations about the fumbling Stéphane Dion, even as Dion was self-destructing. He knew to support Liberal candidates in ridings everywhere, knowing that one day they would support him.

He knew to wait his turn. He knew it would come.

Now what? First, he must avoid falling into a coalition — any coalition — with the New Democratic Party and

the Bloc Québécois. It would be unsustainable, unpredictable and, for the Liberals, unprofitable.

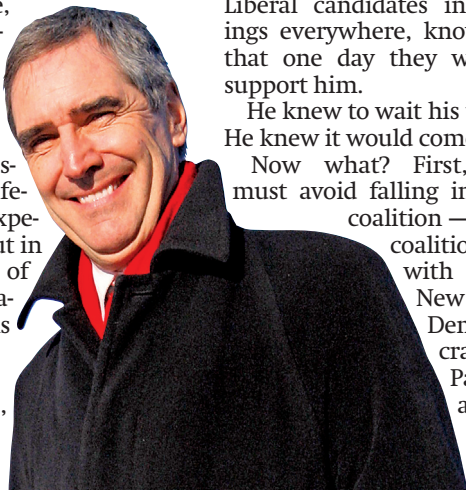
Second, he must renew the Liberal party. This means developing new ideas through a policy conference like the Liberals held at Kingston in 1960, positioning today's party in the centre-left, not the left, as a coalition would. It means finding ways to raise money, for example learning from Barack Obama's pioneering use of the Internet.

It means reorganizing the party structure. It means recruiting candidates, especially in Quebec and the West.

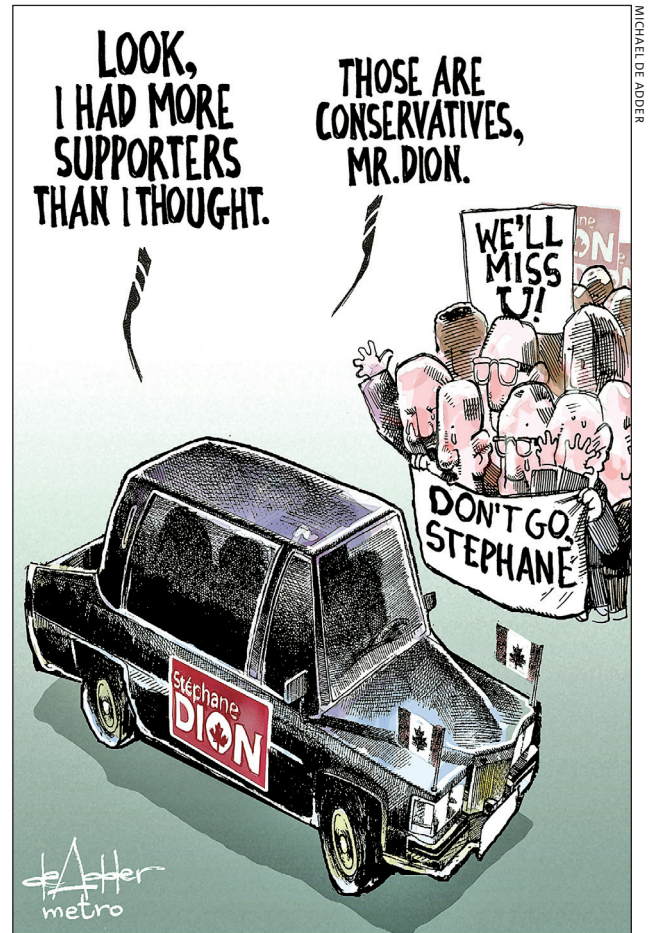
All this will take time. A wise leader will understand this. As Michael Ignatieff waited for the leadership, he will wait for power.

In politics, the foremost lesson is patience.

Andrew Cohen, a professor and journalist, is the author of *Extraordinary Canadians*: Lester B. Pearson.



REUTERS PHOTO



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Letters

High oil prices not needed for innovation

RE: letter "It's up to consumers to adapt to changing oil prices" (Dec. 8).

The fact oil prices are coming down after spiking so dramatically has not stopped innovation from occurring. The fall of oil and gas prices has been a welcome reward to many, including the farmers and ranchers of Canada, who have been beaten up by the peak in oil prices without receiving any reward in increased commodity prices. Also, when prices are high, it does not force oil companies to be innovative.

The threat of another upward spike is enough to scare most people into being more aware.

CLAY CREAMY, BROWNSFIELD, ALTA

Contraception and consent

RE: "Teens need sex education" (Dec. 9).

Josey Vogels promotes the British contraception plan of offering contraception injections for 13-year-olds without parental consent by comparing it to seat belts. Parents would be aware if their child was

charged with not wearing their seat belt, but under this plan they can be prescribed medication that alters their blood chemical and hormonal balance without parental consent. What 13-year-old really has the wisdom to consider the pros and cons of artificial hormone therapy?

Parents at the very least should have a say in their daughters' medical care.

JAI REID, PICKERING

The Queen deserves respect

Re: "Let's retire the Queen" (Dec. 10)

Mr. Sullivan should read up on some Canadian, and world history before he calls the Queen of Canada a lawn ornament, or absurd.

How pathetic and shameful. He speaks of preserving our parliamentary democracy, well, Britain and the monarchy were instrumental with that. Give respect where it is deserved. Maybe you, Mr. Sullivan should be an ornament in Her Majesty's office to see how much she really does and how much she cares for all the citizens in her Commonwealth — even you.

STEVEN KRELLER, VANCOUVER

Views

State of Canadian economy rests on Obama

MoneyMatters

Charles Davies

Veteran Business Writer

When it comes to fixing the economy, we had all better hope our next leader gets it right. And when I say leader, I'm not talking about any of the delusional adolescents playing out the ongoing political farce in Ottawa. I mean Barack Obama, Canada's de facto economic caregiver-in-chief.

The hard reality for Canadians is that our well-being is reliant on the state of the U.S. economy. When your neighbour to the South takes three-quarters of your

exports and supplies two-thirds of your imports, you know you have a dependency issue. Add in the fact that Americans are the biggest foreign investors in Canada, and that we are their largest single supplier of oil and gas, and there's one truth that we can all hold to be self-evident. If Uncle Sam goes down for the count, we're going to get squashed.

He's already tottering. The U.S. lost more than half a million jobs in December, bringing the year's total to more than two million pink slips. Consumer spending is shriveling, as is business investment in inventory, plant and equipment. And let's not forget the sub-prime mortgage crisis and its potential to worsen as jobs continue to evaporate.

Although he doesn't offi-

cially become president until Jan. 20, Obama is already articulating elements of the economic rescue package he plans to take to Congress. Along with business and individual tax cuts, he's looking at raising unemployment compensation, adding to food stamps, providing federal aid to state and local governments and embarking on the largest public works program since the New Deal. Obama is not just promoting road and bridge building. He also wants to invest in things like broadband Internet access and smart electric grids, the kinds of infrastructure investments that would boost U.S. competitiveness once economic growth resumes.

The cost? Who knows, but it could easily surpass the \$700 billion US already allo-

cated to bail out the financial system, not to mention the \$14 billion US in government subsidized loans approved for U.S. automakers.

Will it work? Nobody knows that either, but it's at least clear that massive government aid is coming because, after all, the U.S. economy is too big to fail.

President Obama will very likely give Americans — and Canadians — a New Year's gift by presenting an aid package to Congress the very week of his inauguration. That would be before Canada's Parliament even reconvenes to consider Sideshow Jim Flaherty's next budget.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer and editor who has worked for news organizations and publications including *Business Week*, *Canadian Business*, *Report On Business* magazine, *Reuters*, and *Financial Post*.

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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Consumers raging over high bank rates

Consumers are starting to speak out against the big six banks and their reluctance to fully match a big interest rate cut.

Patrick Novak, a 32-year-old homeowner, started a Facebook group called "Pass on Rate Cuts Canadian Banks" on Tuesday night, just hours after the chartered banks decided to lower their prime rates by only 50 basis points. The central bank had cut its rate by 75 basis points.

Consumers are also upset that banks are blunting the Bank of Canada's actions at a time when banks are tapping taxpayer-funded programs to bolster their lending capacity,

through a mortgage purchase program to \$75 billion and a backstop of more than \$200 billion in interbank loans at a lower interest rate.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's spokesperson said the federal government "does not dictate business decisions" to the banks.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Another rate cut?

- The Bank of Canada may be starting to consider U.S. Fed-like liquidity programs to stimulate the economy. The overnight lending target is heading closer to zero with another rate cut expected in January. **REUTERS**

Business in brief

ACTIVISM ACE Aviation Holdings, which holds 75 per cent of Air Canada's shares, said one of its biggest shareholders West Face Capital has asked the company to convene a meeting to remove all directors and create a new board.

MARKETS Nortel Networks' shares fell 20 per cent to 51 cents on the TSX after the Wall Street Journal reported Nortel has sought legal advice on a bankruptcy protection scheme in the event its restructuring plan fails. **REUTERS**

Fur industry Mild winter means mild sales



A woman tries on a fur coat at a fur fair in Moscow yesterday. Russia's fur industry is awash with chat about the crisis — the crisis of another mild winter cutting demand for the coats considered part of its heritage. This year total fur sales in Russia — mainly coats — will halve to around \$2.5 billion US and 2009 will remain tough, Sergei Stolbov, head of the Russian Fur Union, said.

Mandate for meat label a WTO issue?

TRADE The White House is on track to finalize rules that require country-of-origin labels on meat sold in U.S. grocery stores and are challenged by Canada as a violation of world trade rules, officials said yesterday.

Labeling became mandatory on Sept. 30 under an interim rule. The Agriculture Department says it will allow a six-month transition for foodmakers and retailers to comply with the law.

Canada says the U.S. labeling rules pose an unfair technical trade barrier that makes U.S. packers less willing to buy Canadian cattle and only at lower prices. On Dec. 1, Canada requested consultations with the United States, the first step in the World

Trade Organization dispute process.

REUTERS

Mexico's Bimbo to buy Weston unit for \$2.38B

ACQUISITION Mexico's Bimbo is buying the U.S. breadmaking unit of Canada's George Weston for \$2.38 billion US, giving it a chunk of the eastern U.S. market

with one of the biggest acquisitions in its history.

Bimbo, one of the world's top breadmakers, also purchased George Weston's western U.S. breadmaking

business in

2002.

REUTERS

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Spray paint enforcement

Defenders at penalty kicks will no longer be able to creep closer to the ball in the Argentine soccer league. Using an aerosol spray can to mark the required distance between the ball and opposition players during a penalty kick was approved by the Argentine Football Association yesterday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Sports



Report: Avery decision next week

TSN reported last night that the Dallas Stars will hold making a decision on Sean Avery's future with the team until his NHL suspension is completed. Avery is eligible to return play again when his suspension for making lewd comments ends on Dec. 16.

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Flames can't put away Wings

NHL RESULT

Flames 3 Red Wings 4 (OT)



LAURENCE HEINEN
for Metro Calgary



Curtis McElhinney and Dion Phaneuf guard the net last night.

THE SKINNY: Nicklas Lidstrom scored at 3:50 of overtime to lead the Red Wings to a come-from-behind victory to keep the Flames winless at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena since Dec. 1, 2005.

THE POINT SAVER: In just his second start this season, Calgary goalie Curtis McElhinney

made 35 saves to at least earn the Flames a point.

THE HOMECOMING: A native nearby Dearborn, Mich., David Moss notched his sixth goal in eight games during a third-period power play to the delight of his family and friends

in the stands. Not to be outdone, Detroit defenceman Brian Rafalski, also from Dearborn, scored to sent it to OT.

THE MILESTONES: With an assist on Craig Conroy's opening goal in the first period, Todd Bertuzzi recorded his 600 career

TheHockeyNews

Brian Costello

Read at metronews.ca/sports

point, while Mike Keenan coached in his 1,500th NHL game.

THE KEY STAT: Dion Phaneuf played more than half the game (33:13), had two assists and finished with a minus-one rating.

THE NEXT GAME: Home to face the Panthers on Friday (7 p.m., Sportsnet, Fan 960).

Sabathia to Yankees for record contract

CC Sabathia has agreed to join the New York Yankees for what is expected to be the richest contract signed by a pitcher, Major League Baseball's website said yesterday.

The report said the agreement came after the Yankees added another season and \$20 million to the offer they made the player last month, bringing the package to \$160 million over seven years.

The deal, though, has still to be finalized and the team has yet to make an official announcement.

If it goes through it will eclipse the record six-year,

\$137.5 million deal agreed between the New York Mets and Johan Santana last year.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman held talks with 2007 American League Cy Young Award winner Sabathia at this week's baseball winter meetings in Las Vegas.

Cashman then travelled to the San Francisco

area to meet the pitcher and his family on Tuesday night, according to media reports.

The 28-year-old free agent, a 6-foot-7 left-hander, split his 2008 season between the Cleveland Indians and Milwaukee Brewers, posting a combined 17-10 record and an earned run average of 2.70.

Sabathia has a 117-73

Burnett next?

According to ESPN, the Yankees have offered former Blue Jay A.J. Burnett a guaranteed five-year deal.

record in eight major-league seasons.

Last year the Yankees missed the postseason for the first time since the strike-shortened 1994 campaign, finishing behind the AL East-winning Tampa Bay Rays and Boston Red Sox as injuries decimated their pitching rotation.

REUTERS

Sakic sidelined three months by snow blower

NHL Avalanche centre Joe Sakic will miss the next three months after undergoing surgery Tuesday night to repair three broken fingers and tendon damage, the team announced yesterday. Sakic, already suffering from a her-

niated disc in his back, hurt the fingers in a snowblower accident.

"Joe's surgery was performed by a hand specialist," said Avalanche team doctor Andy Parker.

"The procedure went well and he's expected to make a

full recovery." Sakic missed several games in November with back problems and also missed a game on Nov. 24 with an infected tooth.

Sakic has two goals and 10 assists in 15 games played this year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Joe Sakic had surgery Tuesday.

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Sports in brief

CFL According to TSN, free agent non-import wide receiver Jason Clermont told a Vancouver radio station that he

has offers for next year from both the Stampeders and Saskatchewan Roughriders.

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If you're keen on DIY projects, check out the ideas from the TV show Pure Design. Go to hgtv.ca/puredesign, then Projects & Articles, and click on instructions for a gadget-charging station, a storage bench and more. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Metro Homes



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EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Give cards some decorative credit

CHRISTY NICH
for Source Media Group



Stripped of its modern emphasis on overspending, overindulgence, and pressure to get it all

done by Dec. 25, Christmas is about bringing glad tidings of love and joy.

And as Santa's attention is purported to reward a child's level of "niceness" through the year, could

the number of cards you receive be an adult's indication of your own?

Receiving personalized cards makes us feel appreciated, remembered and important, so it's appropriate to show off those gloriously decorated cardboard validations. People don't send or receive as many cards as they did a generation ago, but that can actually be a good thing. It's easier to make a tasteful display with smaller groups of cards, rather than the walls of string lines common in our suburban bungalows of the 1960s.

First, take an inventory of the spaces you have to work with, the look or theme you're shooting for and any unique architectural details that can be

Receiving personalized cards makes us feel appreciated, remembered and important, so it's appropriate to show off those gloriously decorated cardboard validations.

used in common areas.

Ceilings over a bay window, bulkheads, arches or transitional spaces all allow for vertical strips or creative horizontal "clothes lines" made of ribbon, garland, wire, or LED strands of lights. Use a hole punch in the corner of the card and thread a narrow ribbon or ornament hook through it, then attach it to your hanger.

You have artistic licence to go as simple or as elab-

orate as fits your style, according to the ribbons you choose or extra ornamentation such as bells, silk flowers, or bows on the hangers. If you're renting and have inherited ceiling hooks for hanging plants, you've already got a perfect place for a cascade of cards.

Another simple plan for showing off a few cards is to drape a pretty ribbon from a row of vertical floating shelves or a bookcase and affix greeting



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Holiday cards can be displayed in a tasteful manner.

cards with two-sided tape. The same approach could show off family photos year-round.

Christmas craft fairs can uncover materials to improvise with in your display. Small details such as tiny red, wooden clothes pins meant for a Danish advent calendar make excellent hangers and work well with a hand-made, country theme. Stationary shops are also a great place to find fancy paper clips or other supplies you can adapt. Meanwhile, bulletin or plain foam boards can be covered with festive fabric or wrapping paper and mounted on a wall or door. Two-sided tape also comes in handy on a tree-shaped board and is a quick and easy way to mount cards as soon as you receive them. Add decorations or florist's moss in between to cover empty spots.

Banisters and Venetian blinds have always been a favourite showcase for larger cards, and if you have a brick fireplace, you can curl the cards between the rows of mortar.

For flat surfaces, consider putting a few cards in a pretty bowl, basket or vase amidst tinsel, pine cones and branches, or ornaments.

When you catch sight of your card display, you'll be reminded of the warmth extended to you and yours this holiday season. That's really what it's all about.

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CALGARY, AB; A new report has just been released which identifies the 6 most common and *costly mistakes* that homebuyers make when buying a home.

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Whether you are about to buy your first home, or are planning to make a move to your next home, it is critical that you inform yourself about the factors involved.

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a FREE special report entitled "*6 Things You Must Know Before You Buy*".

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Holiday Shopping Guide IV

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Give green



#1



#2



#3



#5



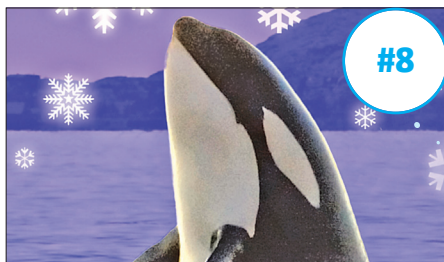
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#1

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#3

Green holiday tips

Visit: chapters.indigo.ca
A Greener Christmas, written by Sheherazade Goldsmith, \$28.

#4

Eco-friendly cookware

Available at The Bay, Home Outfitters, Home Hardware
PTFE-free, non-stick GreenPan, \$129.99.

#5

Telinho the monkey

Visit: origins.com
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#6

FunkyFlip carrier bag

Visit: funky-planet.ca
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#7

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Holiday Shopping Guide IV

Beauty-ful finds: The best of 2008

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

Hankering for an improved complexion, lusher lashes or super-glossy hair? Here's a roundup of some of the year's most effective stuff to help you get what you need.

Skin care

A new study from the University of Toronto suggests that greens+ plant-based supplements may contribute to the reduction of the stress hormone cortisol, which is linked to obesity, cardiovascular disease, mental health and acne. While further study is required to confirm findings, preliminary results make **Genuine Health healthy skin with greens+** (156g, \$27.99) something more than hope



in a jar. **Clarins Pure Melt Cleansing Gel** (\$36) dissolves stubborn makeup and dirt, and rinses cleanly away to leave skin soft, fresh and bright.

With lactic acid to help exfoliate, **Dermalogica Age Smart Skin Resurfacing Cleanser** (\$46) gently smooths skin as it cleanses.

Makeup

Oily skin's new best bud, **Smashbox Photofinish Light** (\$44) is a weightless primer lotion that ensures makeup stays put without feeling masky.

GOSH Velvet Touch Eye Liners (\$13 each)



are waterproof, creamy-smooth, and come in a gazillion colours.

Flake-proof **Clinique Lash Power Long Wearing Formula** (\$18) beats humidity, rain, tears and oily lids, yet washes off with very warm water. Tied for "best-of" placement is just-released **Lancôme Oscillation** (\$39), which, with its micro-vibrating wand and gel-like formula, curls, lengthens, and volumizes for a faux-lash finish.

The most exciting blush debut since Benetint, **Benefit Posietint Lip & Cheek Stain** (\$35) brightens with a youthful, long-lasting, sweetly pink flush.

CoverGirl Wetslicks Amazemint lip glosses (\$6.99 each) rock for



sheer colour, non-sticky and non-drying texture, and a lick of peppermint oil in the mix.

The most makeup bang for your buck, the **Sephora Ultimate Blockbuster Collector's Edition palette** offers more than \$300-worth of cosmetics for just \$58.

Hair care

Besides giving the long-time-singleton shampoo a partner, **Head & Shoulders Conditioner** (\$6.99) helps defeat dandruff and really does leave hair shiny and healthy.

John Frieda Luminous Colour Glaze (\$13.99) has a

new lighter consistency to crank hair-in-need's sheen way, way up.

This year, curly-haired girls fell for **re:coil shampoo, conditioner** (\$20 each) and **curl activator** (\$19) from Canadian company **AG Hair Cosmetics**. The trio delivers frizz-free curls with just a bit of product.



packaging. Canadian-made all three, their eco-footprint is lighter than that of imports. Runnerup: U.S.-made natural-based **Babaii** for **WildAid** hair care, with support from actress **Kate Hudson**

Green star

Big green kudos to a growing number of earth-friendly lines, such as **Live Clean** and **La Coupe Orgnx** haircare and **Cargo PlantLove** cosmetics. Live Clean and Orgnx are formulated with natural and certified-organic botanicals, and housed in recyclable bottles; PlantLove steps up with compostable

and 10 per cent of proceeds marked for WildAid, a global wildlife conservation organization.



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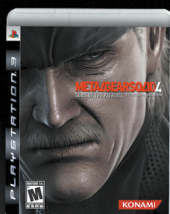
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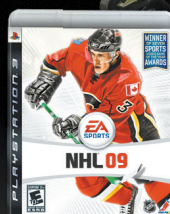
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The Philips and Swarovski Active Crystals line includes the USB Hear Ware Crystal memory keys, left. The keys retail at \$210 for 1GB of storage, and \$264 for 2GB of storage. Go to active-crystals.com for more. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Holiday Shopping Guide IV

Presents for aspiring shutterbugs

RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

Digital snapshot cameras have reached a kind of quality plateau in the last year — image size hovers around the generous eight- to 12-megapixel range, and shutter lag (at least without flash) has been reduced, which means that you're buying based on price and which particular combination of features appeals to you.

THE BASICS:

Olympus FE-360 8-megapixel digital camera (\$129)

Canon Powershot SD1100 8-megapixel digital camera (\$179.99)

Kodak M1093 10-megapixel digital camera (\$199.95)

Olympus Stylus 1050 SW 10-megapixel digital camera (\$299)



Basic cameras, from left: Olympus FE-360 8-megapixel digital camera; Canon Powershot SD1100 8-megapixel digital camera; Kodak M1093 10-megapixel digital camera; Olympus Stylus 1050 SW 10-megapixel digital camera; Sony T77 10-megapixel digital camera; Sony T700 10-megapixel digital camera.

Sony T77 10-megapixel digital camera (\$299.99)

Sony T700 10-megapixel digital camera (\$429.99)

On the low end, we have the **Olympus FE-360** and **Canon's SD 1100**, both eight-megapixel cameras in familiar styles — 2.5-inch LCD screens with controls laid out around and above the menu toggle button and the shutter on the right side of the camera. Olympus puts its selection of shooting modes down a couple of levels in the menu, while Canon puts them one button away. Zoom ranges are about equal. The Canon,

sole among the cameras tested, gives you the option of a rangefinder to look through when bright sunlight makes the LCD hard to use.

Kodak's M1093 is about as basic, though the controls have been tidied up a bit, and Kodak's Smart Capture shooting mode remains one of the most user-friendly automatic shooting modes on the market. **Olympus' 1050 SW** is a flush-lens/sliding-lens cover model that's built like a tank, and meant to withstand rough treatment and weather. The back contains the usual array of controls, but Olympus has built in an accelerometer-controlled interface where you can

choose and set shooting options by tapping on the camera body — once to select, twice to accept.

On the high end, both in terms of price and design, we have a pair of Sony sliding-lens cover cameras. The **T77** and **T700** are basically siblings with sleek aluminum bodies and touchscreen interfaces on the back. The 3.5-inch widescreen LCD on the back of the T700 is a half-inch wider than its brother, though both cameras let you select the area of the frame you want to focus on with a tap.

ONE STEP BEYOND:
Olympus SP-570UZ 10-megapixel camera (\$449)

Panasonic Lumix LX3K 10-megapixel camera (\$549.99)

Olympus E-420 digital SLR w/25mm Zuiko Digital lens (\$679)

Once you've gotten tired of the limitations of a point-and-shoot camera, you'll want to move up to something with more range. The **Olympus SP-570UZ** is a "superzoom" camera, part of a range of cameras that have been gaining popularity with amateur photographers. It has a startling 20x optical zoom that can (and did) pick off a hummingbird hovering by a feeder and a full range of automatic

shooting modes, as well as manual controls that approximate a full SLR.

Panasonic's LX3 has become a big hit with professionals looking for a small camera for travel and location scouting. It's accomplished this by putting its aspect-ratio controls on the Leica lens barrel, letting you compose with a full widescreen LCD on the back and making its low-light capability the best on the market.

Finally, **Olympus' E-420** was reviewed here before, but the company's stellar lens range has come up with a 25mm "pancake" lens that transforms this little SLR into a true joy. Dispensing with the cumbersome zoom that usually comes with this sort of camera, you end up with a light, elegant machine.



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Catch The Rachel Zoe Project, a new six-part series that follows celebrity stylist Rachel Zoe as she juggles runway shows, celebrity clients and her own design business in the fast-paced world of fashion styling. Premieres Jan. 12 on Cosmopolitan TV. **METRO NEWS SERVICE**

Style



Add style to your wrapping regiment

Make the task of wrapping gifts more enjoyable this season or surprise a shoeaholic on your gift list with a cute Mary Jane shoe-style tape dispenser from Scotch Tape. The dispenser holds regular and super-sized rolls of tape. Available now at major retailers nationwide including Wal-Mart, Staples, Chapters/Indigo, Rexall and Grand & Toy for \$10-\$14.99. For more information, visit scotchtape.ca.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Glam it up this New Year's Eve

accessory

Sparkle like the superstar that you are! Mix and match to create sparkling gold and silver duos like this Quo kit, \$15. Use a glittery mascara and liner, connect them and voila! Available at Shoppers Drug Mart.



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Style File

Kim Elbo



kim.elbo@gmail.com

ask kim

I was just at a holiday party and got a small stain on my chiffon dress, how can I get the stain out?

First of all, there are different types of chiffon. If your dress is a poly chiffon (blend of polyester and chiffon), then you can wash it and dry it with no disturbance to the fabric. However, if your dress is silk chiffon, then you'll have to dry clean it as water or any other liquids can distort the fabric.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt



Exclusively at
metronews.ca/globalstyle

New Year Eve dresses

I'm sure your New Year's Eve (NYE) plans have already been set (weeks in advance of course), but have you made plans for what dress you'll be wearing? Well, here's a little guidance to get you going. Shine through the new year and go for glitter and glam — NYE is usually the only time you can wear a full on sequined dress. Nix the little black dress idea and go for something with colour to brighten up the night. And if daring enough, sex it up with a strapless mini.

New Year Eve shoes

Just because you went a little over the top with the dress doesn't mean you can't do the same with the shoes. Step into the new year with rocker-worthy studs, zippers and jeweled baubles. If you haven't bought your dress yet and are looking to find shoes first, try buying black based shoes as it's usually a given that it'll go with everything.

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Courtesy of DRAFT

The November/December issue of DRAFT magazine features nine essential holiday cocktails: Snowflake, Yule Berry Tini, Peppermint Froth, Eggnog White Holiday, Poinsettia Cocktail, Chocolate Eggnog Martini, Baked Apple Pie Cocktail, World Peace Cocktail and Cranberry Sauced. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

lifestyle **29**

Food

For the Eggnog White Holiday cocktail, you'll need: 1 ounce White Chocolate Godiva Liqueur; 1 ounce Navan Cognac and eggnog.

November/December issue of DRAFT Magazine



And then ...

Shake all ingredients in a shaker with ice and strain into a glass. Garnish with gold flakes.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Santa's little kitchen helpers

I realize not everyone — OK very few — appreciate kitchen gadgets under the tree. But, for what it's worth (it is a free newspaper), I thought I would pass along some of my favourite small but useful kitchen gadgets. The operative word here is useful. If not useful, they don't clutter my drawers or cupboards for long.

Onion Goggles

If you chop a lot of onions as I do and have tried the many ways to prevent tearing, here's one that works. I have bought and given many Onion Goggles to family and foodie friends.

Yes, a little corny looking, but these plastic glasses have a comfortable foam seal that protects eyes from irritating onion vapours. They come with a storage case

to keep the goggles clean and avoid scratching. Give with a bag of onions for a gift they'll talk about for awhile. \$25.

Remote Digital Thermometers

Aside from a keen cook, every kitchen should have a thermometer, no exceptions. I particularly like Remote Digital Thermometers.

When it comes to roasting meat, variables such as shape, size and type of meat; cooking guidelines (min/lb or kg) are just that — guidelines. A thermometer is virtually fool-proof, so you can kiss overcooked, dry meat goodbye.

A steel probe inserted in the meat and the attached wire remains in the oven during cooking. The base, outside of the oven, displays the increasing internal temperature during

cooking. An alarm beeps when the internal temperature you have set is reached.

It can also be used outside of the oven, when cooking sugar syrup for making candy or testing water temperature for bread making are examples. They usually have a timer as well. There are quite a few available and prices range from \$30 to \$70.

Hands-Free Soap Dispenser

Why didn't someone think of this before? When prepping yucky things, a Hands-Free Soap Dispenser is such a good idea. The sensor dispenses soap touch-free to help avoid cross-contamination. Just place your hand under the sensor to dispense soap

automatically.

Battery operated (consider giving batteries and a nice bottle of liquid hand soap with it), \$25 to \$40.

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An Immersion Handheld Blender is a handy gadget for pureeing soups right in the pot or whipping up pina colodas. Get one with a few attachments — a knife blade and container for chopping small amounts and a wire whip — for versatility.

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Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Clockwise from far left: Remote Digital Thermometer, Hands-Free Soap Dispenser, Immersion Handheld Blender and Onion Goggles.



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Rating: ●●●●● (out of 5)

Reservations: Available
Client negotiations: No
Lunch w/co-workers: Yes

Social Lunch: Yes

Quick solo lunch: No

Time in: 12:38 p.m.

Ordered: 12:47 p.m.

Food arrived: 12:50 p.m.

Time out: 1:14 p.m.

Total time: 36 minutes

Low \$: Som Tam (Papaya Salad), \$12.95

High \$: Thai-Sa-On

Salmon, \$24.95

Lunch menu: No

Licensed: Yes

When a restaurant is endorsed by Thailand's De-

partment of Commerce for Authentic Thai Food you better hope it can back up the claim. Such is the case for Thai Sa-on. I had the chance to test this claim on my most recent Lunch Rush visit and you are about to find out my verdict.

I have not been to Thailand yet but I would like to think that this is what a Thai restaurant would look like. Everything was genuine from the music and artwork to the bamboo-covered walls and wicker chairs. My choice of food was tough due to the extensively large menu, but I finally settled on the Ka Ree Nua, a yellow curry coconut sauce with beef, potato, mixed vegetables and a side of coconut rice

(\$19.45). The food was mouth-watering to say the least and the portion size was large. I thought it was fairly pricey but the good news is that it could be enough to feed two people. There was enough left over to make my girlfriend happy when I brought it home, scoring me some extra brownie points.

My conclusion: Thai Sa-on offers the complete authentic package from the ambience and décor right to the tasty Thai food. It is definitely a treat for all the senses. Thai food is made for groups and it may be hard to share food with a potential business client. Therefore Thai Sa-on is a great place for a few close people to share a wide variety of dishes.

Eid al-Adha: The Feast of Sacrifice

Eid al-Adha or Feast of Sacrifice is the most important feast of the Muslim calendar. It concludes the pilgrimage to Mecca.

Habeeb Salloum is a resident of Toronto and author of numerous cookbooks, including Arab Cooking on a Saskatchewan Homestead: Recipes and Recollections (Canadian Plains Research Center, University of Regina, Regina, 2005).

The following recipe is supplied by Salloum. The main dish is a whole lamb, minus the head. One-third goes to the family who prepared the lamb and two-thirds goes to the poor around them (including neighbours, extended family, friends, etc). The reason why one-third goes to the family is to keep them humble and so that they eat from the same lamb that they are sacrificing and giving to the poor.

Kharouf Mahshi — Stuffed Lamb Serves 20 to 25.

INGREDIENTS:

- 20 to 25 pound lamb, thoroughly washed
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons salt
- 4 teaspoons pepper

- 4 teaspoons allspice
- 1/2 pound butter
- 3 pounds beef or lamb, cut into very small pieces
- 4 medium onions, chopped
- 1 cup blanched almonds
- 1/2 cup cashew nuts
- 1/2 cup pine nuts
- 1/2 cup pistachio nuts
- 5 cups rice, rinsed
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne
- 8 cardamom seeds, crushed
- 6 cups water
- 2 cups plain yogurt
- 1 cup honey
- 2 teaspoons powdered garlic
- 2 teaspoons ground coriander seeds
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoons ginger

METHOD:

Thoroughly rub lamb both inside and out with a mixture of the lemon juice and 2 tablespoons of the salt. Set aside and allow standing for an hour. Combine 2 teaspoons pepper and 2 teaspoons allspice. Rub lamb inside and out with this mixture then set aside, ready for stuffing.

Melt butter in a large pot then sauté chopped meat

over medium heat for 15 minutes. Stir in onions, almonds, cashews, pine nuts and pistachios. Sauté for a further 10 minutes or until nuts begin to brown. Stir in remaining salt, pepper and allspice, rice, raisins, cinnamon, nutmeg, cayenne, cardamom and water. Bring to a boil and cover. Simmer over medium/low heat for 20 minutes.

Stuff lamb with the contents of the pot, then sew closed and place in a large baking pan.

Make basting by combining remaining ingredients. Baste lamb and cover with aluminium foil. Bake in a 300° F preheated oven for 3 hours, then remove foil and baste. Bake covered for a further hour, basting twice.

Turn lamb over, baste, re-cover with foil, then cook for a further 1 1/2 hours or until the lamb meat is tender, basting every half hour. If baste finishes, baste with pan juices.

Place lamb on a large platter. Remove sewing thread and serve piping hot along with salads.

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The new Baywatch

The creator of the hit TV show Baywatch is looking for the next Pamela Anderson to star in a new version of the series based in New Zealand. Anderson starred as lifeguard C. J. Parker in the 1990s series. IMDB.COM

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Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA**Next samurai**

Keanu Reeves has signed on to star in *47 Ronin*, according to *Variety*. Set in 18th-century Japan, the film will follow the true story of a group of samurai swordsmen who avenge the death of their master. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

New Brandy lacks emotion

Brandy

Album: Human
Label: Epic/Sony BMG
Rating: ⓈⓈⓈ

FOR ALL THIS

Grammy-winning singer/actress has endured of late — specifically, a 2006 car accident that resulted in a fatality and ensuing legal fallout from all parties concerned — one would surmise an outpouring of lyrical and musical emotion on Brandy's first new outing in four years. Save for a chilling *Shattered Heart*, any thankfulness of being alive, being able to love and yearn for love, yada yada yada, is bathed in predictable, repetitive, synth-heavy R&B and all the adult contemporary softness of a white down comforter. Is it really that wrong to occasionally emote some rawness?

Ian Nathanson/for Metro Canada



Human is the first album from R&B singer Brandy in four years.

Alice Russell

Album: Pot of Gold
Label: Little Poppet/Six Degrees/Outside
Rating: ⓈⓈⓈ

HAD THE LIKES of Amy Winehouse and Aimee Duffy not emerged before her, this U.K. songstress'

fourth album would have perked up many ears with her throw-back to '60s Motown-meets-Stax soulfulness. What does set Russell apart is her ability to wail away to near ear-piercing screams as if she longs for



the attention above the punchy horns and backing choirs. And while she capably works some magic on a slow-burning gospel-tinged cover of Gnarls Barkley's *Crazy*, much of Russell's efforts come across calculated and flat following the high-energy opening cuts.

Ian Nathanson/for Metro Canada

Coldplay

Album: Prospekt's March
Label: EMI
Rating: ⓈⓈⓈ

WITH A MEGA-

SUCCESSFUL album released just a few months ago, Coldplay didn't have to release an EP of left over material from their *Viva La Vida* sessions. But they did, more likely because they actually like their fans than for a cash grab. The eight-track count is a bit misleading though — three songs are remixes of *Viva* songs and one is a 48-second piano track. Still, the three new tunes are as good as anything off their recent full-length — especially *Glass of Water* — while the reworked tunes are a nice treat.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

**Common**

Album: Universal Mind Control
Label: Geffen/Universal
Rating: ⓈⓈ

YOU

CAN'T BLAME Common for wanting to rest his over-active brain — for the last few years the rapper has been the go-to guy for conscious, thoughtful hip-hop. On

**MusicReviews**music@metronews.ca

his latest though he just wants to have fun, teaming up with Pharrell Williams for a number of mindless club beats. What we can fault him for however, is creating bland, been-there-done-that rhymes and beats. Lets hope he gets this diversion (early mid-life crisis?) out of his system quickly.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Pearl Jam raids vaults for Ten

MUSIC Pearl Jam has unearthed a host of unreleased tracks and special surprises from its vaults for a reissue of its 1991 debut album, *Ten*.

Four editions will be available March 24 from its former Epic Records label; pre-orders begin this week at PearlJam.com.

In brief

MUSIC The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has reversed a decision on *The Dark Knight* and deemed it eligible for an Oscar in the original score category. **REUTERS**

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Getting and keeping your family organized over the holidays can be a daunting task, but do it right and your holidays will be stress-free!

As soon as December hits, most of us get caught up in the whirlwind that is the holiday season. This time of year usually requires a lot of planning, not to mention great organizational skills. To help you have a happy, healthy, and stress-free holiday, we've created a holiday checklist, filled with simple, time-sensitive reminders that will help you stay on track.

3 weeks before

- Create a holiday budget.
- Make a list of all the gifts you want to buy and for whom. Keep a copy on you at all times.
- Make an appointment with your stylist (and/or manicurist, massage therapist, etc.).



(continued online...)

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No more Jurassic Park

Movie producers have ruled out a fourth Jurassic Park blockbuster because they say the story died with author Michael Crichton. IMDB.COM

In brief

TELEVISION Cult hip-hop band the Roots will serve as the house band on Late Night With Jimmy Fallon, which premieres March 2 on NBC. Fallon, who is filling the slot to be vacated by Conan O'Brien, made the announcement Monday.

MOVIES Milk, a movie about slain U.S. gay politician Harvey Milk, was named the best picture of 2008 yesterday by the New York Film Critics Circle. The honours follow the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, which named animated feature WALL-E the best picture.

REUTERS

Ruffalo's brother in game of Russian Roulette, lawyer says

DEATH Police released a woman arrested in the shooting death of actor Mark Ruffalo's brother, after she told investigators he shot himself playing with a gun, her attorney said yesterday.

Shaha Mishaal Adham, 26, was released late Tuesday night.

Her attorney, Ronald Richards, said Adham was at the Beverly Hills home of her friend, Scott Ruffalo, on Dec. 1 to recover keys to a car she lent him. With her

in the room, Ruffalo shot himself, Richards said. "He plays with guns by pointing them at his head and saying words like Russian Roulette or pop, and he accidentally shot himself," Richards said.

Adham was shocked and fled the scene, on the advice of her boyfriend, Brian Scofield, 29, Richards said. Police later named Scofield a "person of interest" in the case, but was released soon after he and Adham turned themselves in to police Monday.

REUTERS

Before CSI, there was Kay Scarpetta

DOROTHY ROBINSON
Metro World News



Before there was Bones, Dr. G: Medical Examiner, Dexter, Forensic Files, CSI and the many, many other TV shows revolving around forensics, there was chief medical examiner Kay Scarpetta — the heroine of numerous best-selling books by crime writer Patricia Cornwell.

"I'm my own worst enemy," Cornwell says from her penthouse apartment overlooking Central Park. "I have helped to start this forensic thriller genre, which has spawned this incredible industry. At times, I feel like this has almost put me out of business."

But even though Scarpetta has been a fixture in the contemporary suspense genre for 20 years — way before Horatio Caine was just a twinkle in David Caruso's eye — Scarpetta isn't going anywhere. And she's far from going out of business.

"She's the best thing I've got," Cornwell admits in her faint Southern drawl, left over from her time at Davidson College in Virginia and her stint at the office of the chief medical examiner of Virginia. "What do I have that no one else does? Her. I have her. Nobody else has this character, and if I deserve her or not, I have her. And she depends on me to write about her because she knows I have nothing better to do."

That's why Cornwell decided to name her 16th book in the Scarpetta series after her heroine. In Scarpetta, the title character takes up assignment in



Author Patricia Cornwell with her Crime Thriller of the Year award for Book of the Dead during the Galaxy British Book Awards earlier this year in London, England.

"I have helped to start this forensic thriller genre, which has spawned this incredible industry. At times, I feel like this has almost put me out of business."

Patricia Cornwell

New York City, where she must help solve a strange and gruesome murder where the lead suspect is a man with achondroplasia (dwarfism). The work also features many of Cornwell's trademarks — cutting-edge technology, weaving plotlines and, of course, medical mysteries.

But it is always Scarpetta who features most prominently, both in Cornwell's

books and in her mind.

"She is very real to me and she is always with me. But she is not me. She's a mentally, intellectually disciplined person. She doesn't have a DUI or a mood disorder or all of the things that I've got. She says the right thing and does the right thing."

Cornwell pauses, then laughs. "But I'm probably more fun at a party."

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No marriage for Bynes anytime soon

"I say I never want to get married. I feel trapped with the idea of marriage," Amanda Bynes declares in the January issue of Cosmopolitan. [USMAGAZINE.COM](#)

Celebrities join Perry's End of Steve

PILOT Martha Plimpton and Kiele Sanchez have joined Matthew Perry on his dark comedy Showtime pilot The End of Steve.



Matthew Perry

In the title role, the Friends star plays an egomaniacal local talk show host who is on a reluctant path to redemption.

Plimpton (Broadway's Pal Joey revival) will play the show's producer, and Sanchez (Samantha Who?) his pretty co-host.

Additionally, Eddie Shin (That '80s Show) has joined the cast as Steve's boss. Nate Torrence, who co-starred with Perry on NBC's Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip, will play Steve's assistant.

Dreama Walker (Gossip Girl) is on board as the hot teen daughter of the manager of the apartment complex where Steve lives.

REUTERS

NBC cashes in on Leno leap

WHAT HAPPENED? Two weeks ago, the likely defection of Jay Leno for ABC to compete with Conan O'Brien, his network-appointed successor, looked like little more than a slap fight between agents, a power play whose significance wasn't resonating far beyond the few square miles beyond Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue.

Today, however, it seems like NBC's decision to give Leno his own 10 p.m. show, Monday to Friday, leaping from latenight to primetime, was something like betting everything on black.

Increasing the number of unscripted hours on primetime and cutting back on the hour-long dramas that have filled the slot is playing out like a cross between canceling the Beverly Hillbillies and storming the Bastille.

"The model for network television is basically broken," said Rino Scanzoni, CIO for the media division of WPP, a Dublin-based communications firm, in a New York Times story, adding that the new Leno show could be "positive for the advertising communi-

You get the feeling that all this talk about numbers and integration is leaving wet chairs in boardrooms and offices from coast to coast and even overseas.

ty."

Viewers, Scanzoni told the Times, are spending more time "snacking" on TV programs "instead of digesting them week in and week out," a trend his industry sees reflected in the popularity of clips from comedy and variety shows on YouTube and Hulu.

Leno's new show would be even more likely to feature integrated product placement.

You get the feeling that all this talk about numbers and integration is leaving wet chairs in boardrooms and offices from coast to coast and even overseas.

It's nice to know that someone's going to have a merry Christmas this year. It's bad news for out-of-

work actors and film crews in Los Angeles and New York, though, according to the L.A. Times. "The threshold for this show is lower than for a scripted program," said Marc Graboff, co-chairman of NBC Entertainment. "But we are offering something to our advertisers that is more innovative, and it's a topical show."

It's strange, though, that the innovation on which NBC, at least, is setting so much of its future looks so very much like something Steve Allen would have hosted almost 50 years ago. It's too much irony, even for me.

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critics' corner

Kath & Kim

Beware of the enormous amount of holiday cliches! In an effort to find some "couple friends," Kath and Phil (Molly Shannon, John Michael Higgins) decide to host a Christmas party with the mall security guard, Pete (David Koechner), and his wife as the guests of honor. Meanwhile, Kim and Craig (Selma Blair, Mikey Day) find their friendship with Derrick (Jay Phillips) tested at the Circuit Surplus holiday bash. 9:30 PM on KHQ



Jamie at Home Christmas Special

So you always burn the potatoes, your mince pie is dry, and your gravy looks like hazardous waste? Relax. Jamie Oliver has your back — and your roasting pan. He takes viewers through the steps of making a traditional holiday dinner, from prepping the bird to making the perfect pie. Have a blank tape or DVD handy for this one. 8 PM on FOOD

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/11/08	267	351	- ACCESS	Arts & Minds	Arts & Minds	Eve's Christmas (2004, Comedy-Drama) Elisa Donovan.			Eleventh Hour "Flesh"		Arts & Minds
	243	317	3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	ER "The High Holiday"		CSI: Miami	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		News (N)
	-	-	4 OMNI	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News:South Asian Edition(Engl.)		News:Cantonese Edition	The Simpsons		King of Queens
	-	371	5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment		The Insider (N)	Ugly Betty (HDTV)		Grey's Anatomy
	245	306	6 CBRT	NHL Hockey		To Be Announced			CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	NUMB3RS		Survivor: Gabon (N)	The Office (N)		Billable Hours
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		Friends	Friends	Ugly Betty (HDTV)	30 Rock		30 Rock
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Virginie (SC)	Houde	Zone doc (N) (SC)		C.A. (N) (SC)	C.A. (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming					Local Programming		
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)		Survivor: Gabon (HDTV)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Eleventh Hour
prime	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Mr. Christmas		Sherlock Holmes Mysteries	New Tricks "Dockers"		Jolly Holiday
	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		CBC News: The National	CBC News: The National		Nature-Things
	-	370	16 KHQ	News	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)		The Office (N)
	-	373	22 KAYU	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Secret Millionaire (N)	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Smarter Than a 5th Grader?
	297	652	37 WPIX	Supernatural (HDTV)		CW11 News at Ten (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City	Will & Grace
	500	500	29 CNN	Planet in Peril: Battle Lines				Anderson Cooper 360	Larry King Live		Larry King Live
	508	502	31 CNN2	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace
	400	400	21 TSN	(6) NFL Football New Orleans Saints at Chicago Bears.				SportsCentre	Triathlon: Ironman		Poker Night
	408	418	27 net	NHL Hockey Florida Panthers at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live)				Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Connected		Best-Sports
	410	403	30 SCORE	Poker: Million	Score Tonight	NBA Basketball		Portland Trail Blazers at Utah Jazz. (Live)			Final Score
news	411	457	44 OLN	Survivorman		Pilot Guides "Vietnam"		Pilot Guides	Don't Forget Your Passport		Crusoe
	417	406	48 SPEED	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks	Pass Time		Pinks -- All Out
	552	543	20 YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Sabrina-Witch	Sabrina-Witch		Futurama
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie		Han. Montana
	555	545	67 TOON	Atomic Betty: No-L. Nine		Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside			Johnny Test
	575	583	11 CMT	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country	Gone Country		Home Improve.
	553	546	17 TREE	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Sec Star-Left	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Babar		Backyardigans
	-	-	18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E! News	X-Weighted		Secret Millionaire (N)	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Smarter Than a 5th Grader?
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two			
	602	568	23 W	Shopping Bags	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House		Confidential
family	521	560	24 TLC	American Chopper		LA Ink (HDTV) (N)		American Chopper	LA Ink (HDTV)		Amer. Chopper
	603	561	25 FOOD	Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Jamie at Home Christmas Spe		Restaurant Makeover	Challenge Ice cream.		Unwrapped
	615	520	26 A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Manhunters	Manhunters		The First 48
	617	522	32 SHOW	EastEnders	Spaced	Painkiller Jane		ReGenesis (HDTV)	Trailer Park		Trailer Park
	601	562	33 SLICE	10 Pounds	Last 10	The Biggest Loser	The winner is revealed.		ET Canada		Matchmaker
	-	633	34 ENC2	House-Hauntd	(7:20) House on Haunted Hill (1999, Horror)			Death Weekend ★ (1977, Suspense)			The Car ★★ (1977, Horror)
	520	505	35 DISC	(6) Impact Earth		MythBusters		Daily Planet			Monster Moves
	620	523	36 BRAVO	These Girls ★★ (2005, Comedy)		Bravonews		Law & Order	Without a Trace		These Girls
	294	650	40 WPCB	Rat Race ★★ (2001, Comedy) Rowan Atkinson.				Friends	Family Guy		Family Guy
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons		South Park
cable	-	539	42 TCM	(6) The Bells of St. Mary's	(8:15) Pennies From Heaven (1936, Musical)			(9:45) High Society (1956, Musical Comedy) (DVS)			
	628	584	43 SPIKE	TNA IMPACT! (HDTV) (N)		The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV)		Disorderly Conduct: Video			Rock Band 2
	522	516	45 HIST	Finding the Fallen		NCIS		Lost Worlds	Finding the Fallen		NCIS
	627	528	46 SPACE	Stargate SG-1		Chuck (HDTV)		Stargate SG-1	Lost "Not in Portland"		Deep Space 9
	-	-	47 AMC	The Day the Earth Stood Still		Star Trek: Nemesis ★★ (2002, Science Fiction) Patrick Stewart.			The Fly ★★★ (1958)		
	619	525	49 TROP	Make or Break	Naked Fashion	Beverly Hills, 90210		Make or Break	What Happen?		Family Guy
	600	564	50 HGTV	The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos (N)	Holmes on Homes			The Fix
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet		News
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call		Commodities
	526	507	92 VIVA	The West Wing		Passion	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.	Encounters		Judging Amy
variety	269	350	93 APTN	Suaangan	Wapos Bay	By the Rapids	renegadePress	The Fugitive ★★★ (1993, Suspense)	Harrison Ford, Tommy Lee Jones.		
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Vancouver	Kirdaar		Dheeyan Ghar
	571	581	100 MMM	Listed		Gene Simmons	Gene Simmons	Party of Five	Cher: The Farewell Tour		Sadabahar
	570	580	101 MM	50 Cent: Money and Power		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Muchmusic Countdown			Pimp My Ride
	581	566	102 MTV	The Hills	After Show	Whitney: From The Hills to The City (N)		MTV Live	Super Sweet		The Hills
											Whitney: City



Actress Cynthia Nixon has downplayed the frenzy surrounding plans for a Sex and the City: The Movie sequel, insisting the cast has yet to sign contracts for the project. [IMDB.COM](#)

Celebrity Buzz

Jessica predicts proposal near

RELATIONSHIPS Singer Jessica Simpson is reportedly “convinced” that her boyfriend Tony Romo is going to propose to her over the holidays. An unidentified source tells Star magazine that Romo let the cat out of the bag by needling her about the diamond she received from ex-husband Nick Lachey. Simpson’s reps deny the story.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Aniston: Stop the love gossip!

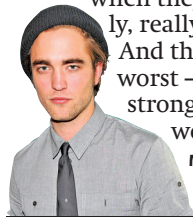
RELATIONSHIPS Actress Jennifer Aniston is “sick” of the interest in her relationship with John Mayer, [imdb.com](#) reports. “I think it’s ridiculous, the interest in my life I feel like telling people, ‘You know what? It’s none of your f—ing business.’”



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Pattinson likes ‘crazy’ women

DATING Twilight star Robert Pattinson tells Closer magazine he always ends up regretting the women he’s attracted to: “I always like a kind of madness in a woman, and when they are really, really strong. And they’re the worst — mental, strong women!”



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Piven’s Gold inspires actors

PEOPLE Jeremy Piven’s character in Entourage has inspired actors to fire their real-life agents, according to the star. Piven plays Ari Gold, a straight-talking Hollywood representative, in the hit show, and the role has had a profound effect on actors who watch the series, [imdb.com](#) reports. “The best are the other actors who tell me they’ve fired their agent because they want a rep who’s more like Ari. All you can

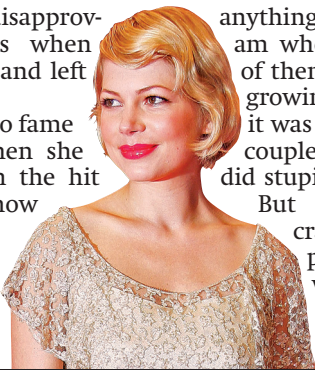


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do is try to tell them not to base real-life decisions on fictional characters,” Piven tells New York Post gossip column PageSix. But Piven is baffled by fans who confuse him with Gold and often finds himself telling them his real name. “A lot of fans scream ‘Ari!’ at me. It doesn’t annoy me. I go right over, tell them my real name and that I’m just the actor who plays Ari,” he says.

I did ‘stupid, crazy things’: Williams

PEOPLE Actress Michelle Williams did “stupid, crazy things” when she was growing up as an aspiring actress, but the experiences helped her prepare for the future, [imdb.com](#) reports. Williams was so eager to pursue an acting career, she distanced herself from her disapproving parents when she was 15 and left school. She shot to fame in 1998 when she appeared in the hit teen show Dawson’s Creek. Now, at 28, Williams



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can see she took a huge risk by branching out by herself to try to carve a career in Hollywood. “At the time, I was invincible. I thought I was on top of the world. I didn’t realize what I was doing,” she tells Parade.com. “But I wouldn’t trade any of those experiences for anything in the world. I am who I am because of them. I had a lot of growing up to do and it was slammed into a couple of short years. I did stupid, crazy things. But those stupid crazy things prepared me to deal with future.”

Mariah wants weddings yearly

MARRIAGE Singer Mariah Carey wants to have a wedding every year, femalefirst.co.uk reports. Carey, who married Nick Cannon last April, is reportedly planning a lavish ceremony for their first anniversary, and one every year after that. “We’ll definitely get (friends and family) involved in another celebration, though. We’ve been talking about doing a bigger wedding on our first anniversary. And maybe another one every year,” Carey says. Only eight people attended Carey and Cannon’s low-key ceremony in the Bahamas, and Carey, who was previously married to record executive Tommy Mottola,



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says it was perfect. “I wanted the opposite of what I did the first time,” she tells Britain’s Hello! Magazine. “Nick and I wanted it to be about us: No fuss, no worrying about everyone else’s opinions ... For once it wasn’t all about the hoopla.”

Eloping mistake, Cruise tells Spencer and Heidi

ADVICE Actor Tom Cruise has told reality TV star Spencer Pratt he made a mistake by eloping with Heidi Montag, [imdb.com](#) reports. The Hills co-stars jetted off to Mexico last month to tie the knot in secret, despite Montag’s previously expressing her desire for a big family ceremony. Cruise is convinced Pratt has



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made a mistake that will come back to haunt him. When asked to offer advice to the newlyweds, Cruise told MTV, “If the girl wants the wedding, you gotta do the wedding. It’s a special occasion, and she’ll remember it forever. Spencer, dude ... you’ll realize this later.”

Tomei studied strippers for role

CAREER Oscar winner Marisa Tomei studied rocker Bret Michaels’ raunchy reality show Rock Of Love as part of her stripper research for movie The Wrestler, [imdb.com](#) reports. “I would practise in a dance room with a bar and a mirror, like a ballet studio. I watched Rock of Love, that reality show with Bret Michaels, where he’s trying to get a wife and they’re all strippers. That was my closest association to the actual world of it.”



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Swift has strict dating rules

RELATIONSHIPS Newly single teen singer Taylor Swift has written a set of strict dating rules to ensure she attracts a better boyfriend than her ex, Joe Jonas, femalefirst.co.uk reports. “I have this rule: I don’t call a guy first. And you can’t ever send two text messages in a row,” Swift tells TheBoot.com. “If you’re like, ‘I need to talk to you’ all the time, (or) ‘Why didn’t you call me back?’ ... If you’re that girl, then nobody’s going to want to date you.”



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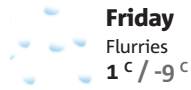
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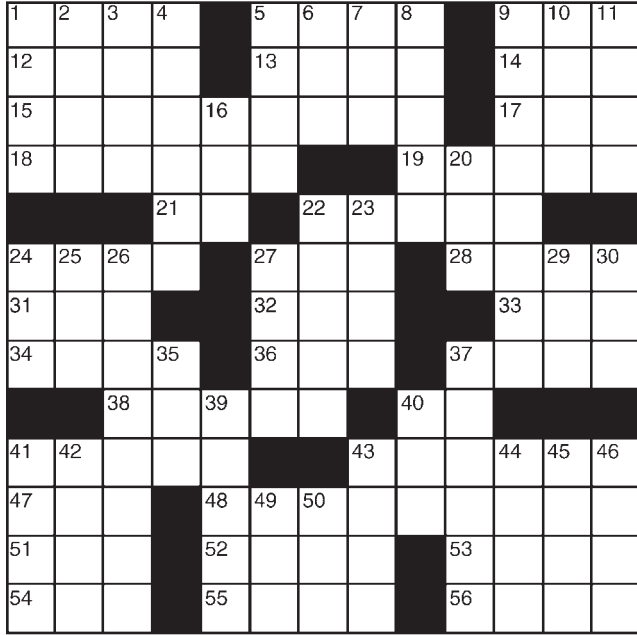
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WEEKDAYS AT 6 AM

Take Five



Crossword across

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Maintained | 33 Bribe |
| 5 Flavor enhancer | 34 Bacterium |
| 9 Expert | 36 Performance |
| 12 Reed instrument | 37 Catherine — Jones’ |
| 13 Follow instructions | 38 “Honeymooners” role |
| 14 Lubricant | 40 Poet Housman’s initials |
| 15 China | 41 Brother of Groucho |
| 17 Vitamin stat | 43 Collar |
| 18 Reddish blue | 47 Disencumber |
| 19 Skiers’ mecca | 48 Photographer’s resume |
| 21 Perform | 51 Work unit |
| 22 Bean or pony | 52 Reverberate |
| 24 Info | 53 Recedes |
| 27 Bawl | 54 Teensy |
| 28 Kennel cries | 55 Call a halt to |
| 31 Lennon’s lady | 56 Back talk |
| 32 Raw rock | |

Crossword down

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Pueblo dweller | 25 Inseparable |
| 2 Black, in verse | 26 Bears’ food? |
| 3 Parliament VIP | 27 Daytime drama |
| 4 Make up your mind | 29 Cauldron |
| 5 Unaccompanied | 30 Hot tub |
| 6 “The — Daba Honeymoon” | 35 Singer Davis |
| 7 Mainlander’s memento | 37 All but one in a million? |
| 8 Theater critic Kenneth | 39 Runs easily |
| 9 Dolphin | 40 “Bow-wow!” |
| 10 Carnival attraction | 41 Captain’s group |
| 11 “The Good Earth” heroine | 42 Take on |
| 16 Id counterpart | 43 On |
| 20 Pigs’ digs | 44 Exile isle |
| 22 Veranda | 45 Parent sharers |
| 23 “Yeah, right” | 46 Pitch |
| 24 Follow relentlessly | 49 Halloween abbr. |
| | 50 Pi follower |

PREVIOUS DAY’S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
 Under 13 minGenius
 13-17 min.....Scholar
 17-21 minSmart
 21-25 minNot bad
 25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



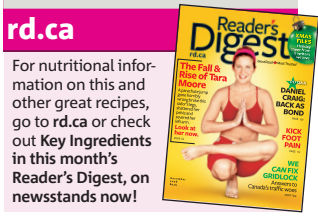
New Potato Salad

INGREDIENTS:
 2 lbs (900 g) tiny new potatoes, washed
 2 tbsp (25 mL) dry white vermouth or dry white wine
 1 tsp (5 mL) white wine vinegar, or to taste
 Pepper to taste
 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
 4 tbsp (60 mL) low-fat mayonnaise
 6 tbsp (90 mL) plain low-fat yogurt
 1/2 large firm cucumber, diced
 1/3 cup (75 mL) scallions, thinly sliced
 4 tbsp (60 mL) chopped fresh dill
 2 tbsp (25 mL) chopped fresh tarragon
 Fresh dill and tarragon leaves to garnish

around for a few minutes to evaporate any moisture. Transfer the potatoes to a mixing bowl and leave to cool for about 5 minutes.
 2. Sprinkle vermouth or wine and wine vinegar over potatoes. Season with pepper. Turn potatoes to mix, then leave to cool completely.
 3. Meanwhile, mix garlic, mayonnaise and yogurt in a small bowl until smooth.
 4. When potatoes are cool, add cucumber, green onions, dill and tarragon. Spoon on mayonnaise and yogurt mixture, and stir gently to mix. Serve at room temperature or chilled, garnished with dill and tarragon leaves.

SERVES 4

METHOD:
 1. Cook potatoes in a saucepan of boiling water just until tender, about 10 minutes. Drain and return them to the pan. Set over a low heat and shake them



Horoscopes AVATAR VENUS

<p>ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20 A difficult learner forces an investigation. Indecision presents a formidable dilemma. An opponent brings things to conclusion.</p>	<p>TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21 Timing is crucial to finalize a deal. A man presents an absurd challenge. Alertness is required when visiting old folks.</p>	<p>GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21 A loved one’s insignificant indulgence is allowed. Optimism can lead to clearer thinking. An older man’s helpfulness may be denied later.</p>	<p>CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22 A close friend’s trust is an eye-opener. Take responsibility for someone’s heart. Your patience will be rewarded.</p>	<p>LEO JULY 23-AUG 23 Avoid any risk-taking while travelling. You’re too eager for the weekend. Use your head and all will be well.</p>	<p>VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22 Be there for someone who expects you to make the first move. A friend pulls you out of a bad situation. A computer failure will seem suspicious.</p>
<p>LIBRA SEPT 23-OCT 23 A milestone is reached in a love affair. Thoughtlessness results in a shake-up. Crowds can get nasty when someone backs out of a promise.</p>	<p>SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22 Resist delectable food to keep your weight down. Keep no secrets from your friends. A lost pet causes heartache.</p>	<p>SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21 A heartrending story will shock and dismay you. A friend will sustain a storm of criticism. Situations will engineer their own corrections.</p>	<p>CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20 A haughty man creates a disturbance. You might not get a job finished. A lack of co-operation can be rectified after lunch.</p>	<p>AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 18 Something new will give you pleasure. Roll up your sleeves and get to work. You’re willing to fight for dignified treatment.</p>	<p>PISCES FEB 19-MARCH 20 Be sceptical if offered investment advice. Someone is arranging a private deal. Work as hard and as quickly as possible.</p>

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